



## Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 - 11:00 AM

*Members Present: Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Pepón Osorio, Rebecca Segall, Matthew Jordan-Miller Kenyatta, James Lowe and Robert Roesch*

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Rebecca Segall

### **MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION**

*Kathrine Liss, on behalf of Art Commission Director Alex Smith – began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the February 12, 2025 Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting.*

*Ms. Liss polled the Commission via roll call, then stated a few instructions for the public. Members of the public may comment on agenda items during the meeting. When the agenda item that you are interested in is being discussed, you can use the “raise hand” feature and staff will unmute you during the public comment period. If you’re joining by phone, you can also use the hand raise feature by dialing \*9 during the public comment period, and if you have any submitted comments through email, staff will read those emails out loud at the appropriate time.*

*Ms. Liss announced that commissioner Jose Almiñana has resigned for the Commission and expressed gratitude for his duty and service to Philadelphia.*

*Commission Chair Roesch called the meeting to order and announced a quorum at the minute mark in video (00:08:25).*

### **REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – January 22, 2025**

*Streeterly Reviews:*

- 1. 7-25**  
**Rosy’s Taco Bar**  
2218-2222 Walnut Street

*Second Reviews:*

- 1. 346-24**  
**Bond Vet**  
2101 Walnut Street
- 2. 322-24**  
**Xfinity Live! Entertainment Plaza**  
1300 Pattison Avenue

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

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*First Reviews:*

1. **11-25**  
**Chase Bank**  
2000 Hamilton Street
2. **10-25**  
**European Republic**  
213 Chestnut Street
3. **8-25**  
**McCausland Arena (at Chamounix Equestrian Stables)**  
98 Chamounix Drive
4. **9-25**  
**RE/MAX**  
6100 Ridge Avenue

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Public or Commission Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign and Streeter Committee of January 22, 2025 (00:09:09).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.*

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeter Committee of January 22, 2025.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1. **19-25**  
**Bus Shelter Upgrades**  
**Various Locations (8)**  
Review Type: Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way  
Project Details: Eight new bus shelter installations  
Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Kathrine Liss presented four administrative items to the Commission. All administrative items required a consensus vote (00:09:27). The first administration item was for Bus Shelter upgrades.

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS), in partnership with Intersection, has submitted a series of bus shelter upgrades as part of their on-going shelter improvement program. The Art Commission typically reviews new or replacement bus shelter locations several times a year as administrative items. Today's submission is for eight new bus shelters at various locations around the city. Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommend all for approval.

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**The locations:**

- Aramingo Ave & Clearfield St
- Front St & Olney Ave
- Cottman Ave & Loretto Ave
- Aramingo Ave & Castor Ave
- Roosevelt Blvd & Garland St
- Roosevelt Blvd & F St
- Adams Ave & Tabor Rd
- Glendale Ave Cottman Ave

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:11:47).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta.*

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.*

**2. 20-25**

**Hephaestus Sculpture Conservation (at Pelbano Playground)**

**8101 Bustleton Avenue**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Conservation work of sculpture

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Creative Philadelphia submitted to the Art Commission for administrative review and approval of conservation work for the *Hephaestus* statue by Robert Lasus at Pelbano Playground at 8101 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19152. (00:12:06)

Question and comments from Commission (00:14:16)

Commissioner Febo San Miguel shared that the change of color is a great improvement for this project.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:14:43).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Osorio.*

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.*

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**3. 21-25**

**Ferko Playground  
1101 E Cayuga Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: Site improvements  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

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Philadelphia Park and Recreation requested administrative approval for site improvements at Ferko Playground at 1101 E Cayuga Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124. The project includes installing new safety surface & new pieces of play equipment, as requested by City Council. Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommend for approval (00:15:04).

Questions and comments from Commission (00:15:47). Commissioner Lowe asked to review any pictures/content of the S.T.E.M panels.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked for clarification on the where the mounds are in between the play equipment.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:18:17).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Segall.*

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.*

**4. 22-25**

**Wissahickon Hall  
5793 Lincoln Drive**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: Structural restoration and stabilization to interior walls  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation requested administrative approval for the project at Wissahickon Hall, 5793 Lincoln Drive (Lincoln Drive & Gypsy Lane).

This project covers the structural restoration of the front porch and stabilization of the interior elements of a building side wall at Wissahickon Hall. Existing features of the porch will be retained/restored and/or replicated with in-kind materials where necessary. Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommended for approval (00:18:40).

Question and comments from Commission (00:19:32).

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if the project would look the same after improvements? A representative from PPR responded that no changes are proposed only like kind materials will be used, and they will be reusing as many existing materials as possible. This project is to reinforce the structure.

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Commissioner Lowe stated that in the review plan it does not show the columns to be on the first or second floors. It appears to be only on the first floor.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:22:10).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.*

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.*

## **PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW**

### **1. 4-25**

#### **East Passyunk Community Center 1025 Mifflin Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Open space improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Presenter: Gilmore Associates

Jordan Warner, Landscape Designer at Gilmore Associates, began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:23:00). John Keiser continued the presentation about the artwork on the site (00:25:22). Jordan continued the presentation (00:26:54).

Question and comments from Commission (00:32:30)

Commissioner Roesch asked two questions - if the benches get hot due to them being metal? Also, if the resin would break away as the tree matures. Jordan answered that the benches have powder coating on them to minimize heat impacts. The applicant also responded that the resin would loosen in a limited way. Commissioner Roesch commended them for the tree planting proposal.

Commissioner San Febo Miguel asked if some of the replanting and removal of the trees will improve being able to see the mural that is currently blocked. Jordan answered, yes, coincidentally, the trees that need to be removed block the mural and the existing trees will be pruned so that they remain healthy.

Commissioner Lowe continued the conversation centered around the plants and maintenance to this site. Commissioner Kenyatta commented on some of the community engagement feedback and about the current art in the space.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:43:13).

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*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Kenyatta and seconded by Commissioner Nasser*

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Rebecca Segall

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (7-0).*

## **2. 184-24**

### **Chinatown Station ADA Improvements**

#### **800 Race Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: ADA and site improvements

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: Jacobs

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

Matt Morong from Jacobs began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:44:53)

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:54:56).

Commissioner Kenyatta commended the presentation. He wanted to know how public art and community voices would be integrated. Answer from the applicant noted that they have not finalized what this would look like.

The Commission carried out a conversation about signage content, wayfinding for bikes and multilingual signage within the building. The presenter stated that they still operated in SEPTA standards with signage (00:56:54)

Commissioner Lowe asked what kind of glass would be used on the building? The presenter stated that the intent is to fret the glass to help with heat, also there will be ventilation in the station to help with climate control.

The Commission continued conversation regarding the proposed native tress from China. Additionally, sculptures, parking and access to the roof were discussed.

Comments from public (01:04:32)

A member of the public questioned why in the conceptual plans there are placeholders for art on the side and rear of the building, but not in this presentation. The presenter answered that those areas are still possible if there is funding to do so.

Another member of the public asked if solar panels were ever considered to be used? The answer was that a green roof was decided to be used. She did not agree with the green roof.

*Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:07:38)*

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*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Segall*

*Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.*

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (7-0).*

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## **PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW**

### **1. 23-25**

#### **Holocaust Memorial Plaza - Mural 1631 Arch Street**

Review Type: Mural located within Parkway Buffer

Project Details: Mural

Applicant: Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation and Mural Arts

Presenter: Ella Ponizovsky Bergleson

The Executive Director from Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:08:40). Artist Ella Ponizovsky Bergleson continued presentation (01:18:18)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:25:56).

Commissioner Roesch was impressed with the proposal and asked if there was language that was on the panels. The answer was that there are over 30 languages presented.

Commissioner Lowe had several questions about the languages being used on the panels, how art was going to be experienced and protection against vandalism. The answer was that each panel would not be in a different language. There will be signage and QR codes available for more information provided. There will be a special coating over the mural to protect the color and security will be onsite.

The Commission continued conversations on the specific content that would be on the panels. The artist expressed how her ideas translate to the city of Philadelphia (01:33:20).

Commission Febo San Miguel asked for nighttime renderings to be presented when back in front of Commission.

Comments from public (01:04:32). A member of the public expressed how he has seen the care and value of this piece in the community.

Another member of the public asked if this location was reviewed by the Historic Commission. The answer was yes, PHC's review was ongoing.

Another attendee expressed how this plaza is an educational piece and is appreciative of its presence.

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Finally, another member of the public expressed her support for this project.

*Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:50:59)*

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Segall*

*Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.*

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (7-0).*

## **2. 24-25**

### **Riverview Wellness Village 7801 State Road**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: New building and exterior site improvements  
Applicant: Department of Public Property  
Presenter: Ballinger

It was noted that Commissioner Lowe had to abstain from this project.

The applicant team from Ballinger began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:54:35).

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:07:48). Commissioner Roesch asked if some of the roofs have been looked at as the residents in second level buildings do not have something unappealing to look at. It was encouraged to consider all views for residents.

The Commission continued conversations about lighting and the roofs. The project is using green roofs as part of their required stormwater management strategy. They are not opposed to using solar panels in the future as well.

Commissioner Osorio congratulated the project team. He did express his concern for what looked to be male dominant sport equipment for the proposal. The presenter clarified that there are also areas for yoga and dance and that there are opportunities for mixed gender activities.

Commissioner Nasser asked if there was a community garden. The presenter answered that it is being considered.

*Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (02:16:38)*

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Nasser*

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*Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe (abstain), Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.*

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (6-0).*

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Commission Chair Roesch requested *adjournment of the February 12, 2025 Philadelphia Art Commission meeting*. (02:16:45).

**The next Art Commission will be held March 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 18-029 Philadelphia, PA 19102 and via Zoom.**

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